

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 /075 W

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R 241430Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: KAUNDA ATTACKS CRITICS OF ZAMBIA'S RHODESIAN POLICY

REF: LUSAKA 2407

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. DAILY MAIL DEC 24 REPORTS PRESIDENT KAUNDA INTERVIEW WITH EAST AFRICAN "WEEKLY REVIEW" IN WHICH KAUNDA ATTACKS "DISGRUNTLED ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS" FOR LAUNCHING MALICIOUS CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT ZAMBIA'S ROLE IN RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. KAUNDA IDENTIFIES NATIONALISTS AS THOSE INVOLVED IN INTERNAL ANC FEAUDING IN ZAMBIA LAST SPRING WHICH RESULTED IN MURDER OF ANC LEADER HERBERT CHITEPO. KAUNDA MENTIONED BY NAME NDABANINGI SITHOLE, WHO HE STATED "SAID SOMETHING IN GERMANY WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD NEVER REACH US...I CONFRONTED HIM WITH IT IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER PRESIDENTS. HE HAD NO ANSWER TO THIS."

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KAUNDA ALSO CHARGED THAT SITHOLE HAD SIGNED CIRCULAR IN DAR

ALLEGING ZAMBIAN DEAL WITH SOUTH AFRICA. KAUNDA ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FINDINGS OF COMMISSION APPOINTED TO PROBE CHITEPO'S MURDER, WHICH HAD FORCED GRZ SUSPEND ALL ANC GUERILLA ACTIVITIES IN ZAMBIA, WOULD BE REVEALED SOON.

2. KAUNDA'S REMARKS HELP EXPLAIN HARSH EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY MAIL DEC 17 ATTACKING ANC (MUZOREWA FACTION) LEADER ELLIOTT GABELLAH. EDITORIAL STATED THAT "SMEAR CAMPAIGN THAT IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN ZIMBABWE BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS THAT HAVE THE AUDACITY TO CALL THEMSELVES NATIONALISTS AND LEADERS WILL NOT SUCCEED TO SOUR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AND PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE...IF PEOPLE LIKE GABELLAH STILL HAVE ANY USE IN ZIMBABWE TODAY, LET THEM PROVE SO BY EITHER STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF THOSE NOW WORKING TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BY SHOWING THAT AFRICANS ARE UNITED OR BY ORGANIZING FOR AN ARMED STRUGGLE IN THE EVENT MAJORITY RULE IS NOT ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE GRZ'S ATTEMPT GIVE APPEARANCE OF NOT TAKING SIDES BETWEEN FEUDING ANC FACTIONS, ZAMBIA'S STATED PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF NKOMO FACTION IN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH SMITH REGIME (REFTEL) HAVE HELPED ALIENATE GRZ FROM DISSIDENT ANC LEADERS SUCH AS SITHOLE, MUZOREWA, AND GABELLAH. THEIR SNIPING AT ZAMBIA REFLECTS THEIR RECOGNITION THAT THEY WILL BE THE LOSERS IF NKOMO SUCCEEDS IN REACHING NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WILKOWSKI

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